

Message Text

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16

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 EB-11 FRB-02

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SUBJ: US-YUGOSLAV CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

REF A. BELGRADE 0881 B. BELGRADE 2260 C. STATE 106941

SUMMARY. GOY CABINET COMPLETED EXAMINATION IDEA FOR JOINT US-YUGOSLAV CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND HAS NOW APPROVED A PROPOSAL CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN THE UNITED STATES AND ONE IN YUGOSLAVIA; EACH CHAMBER WOULD HAVE ITS OWN MEMBERSHIP AND STATUS. WE RECOMMEND THAT THIS PROPOSAL BE ACCEPTED. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN SECRETARIAT (NAUM ACKOVSKI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA) CALLED IN ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR TO CONVEY RESULTS GOY EXAMINATION OF IDEA FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT US-YUGOSLAV CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. ACKOVSKI RECALLED THAT THIS IDEA WAS DISCUSSED DURING VICE PRESIDENT SIROTKOVIC VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES AND THAT THE PROPOSAL HAD NOW BEEN CAREFULLY EXAMINED UNDER CABINET INSTRUCTION.

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2. ACKOVSKI SAID THE CABINET HAS APPROVED A PROPOSAL CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN THE UNITED STATES AND ONE IN YUGOSLAVIA. EACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WOULD HAVE ITS OWN MEMBERS AND ITS OWN STATUS. THE PURPOSE OF THE TWO CHAMBERS WOULD BE TO DEVELOP ECONOMIC RELATIONS IN ALL FIELDS INCLUDING TRADE, JOINT VENTURES, INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, TOURISM, AND COOPERATION ON THIRD-COUNTRY MARKETS. EACH CHAMBER WOULD HAVE ITS OWN BOARD WHICH WOULD ORGANIZE MIXED US-YUGOSLAV BOARD MEETINGS AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR AND PREFERABLY TWICE. IN ADDITION, THE TWO CHAMBERS COULD CREATE SMALLER SPECIALIZED BODIES SUCH AS FOOD PROCESSING, ELECTRONICS, ETC., TO MEET PERIODICALLY, IF POSSIBLE. EACH CHAMBER WOULD DEFRAID ITS OWN EXPENSES. ACKOVSKI SAID THE NAME OF THE CHAMBER ON THE US SIDE COULD BE "US/YUGOSLAV CHAMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS;" IN YUGOSLAVIA THE CHAMBER COULD BE CALLED "YUGOSLAV/AMERICAN CHAMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION." ACKOVSKI INDICATED THAT THE GOY WAS FLEXIBLE AND BELIEVED THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WAS TO CREATE AN INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR INDUSTRIALISTS, BANKERS, TRADERS TO MEET PERIODICALLY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS. ACKOVSKI STRESSED THAT THE GOY WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO INVOLVE THE BEST AND BIGGEST YUGOSLAV FIRMS.

3. ACKOVSKI REITERATED THE GOY PROPOSAL HAD CABINET APPROVAL AND, IF ACCEPTABLE TO THE US, THE GOY WOULD BE PREPARED TO PROCEED WITH IMPLEMENTATION. HE COMMENTED THAT THE GOY HAS A SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT WITH ITALY, UNITED KINGDOM, AND FRANCE.

4. ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR TOLD ACKOVSKI THAT THE US WAS PLEASED THAT THE GOY HAD MOVED FAST TO EXAMINE THE JOINT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IDEA AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WAS PREPARED TO COOPERATE. WE FULLY AGREE THAT US/GOY ECONOMIC RELATIONS WOULD DEVELOP FASTER BY EXPANDED CONTACTS. ACKOVSKI WAS TOLD THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD CONVEY THE GOY PROPOSAL TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSIDERATION.

5. COMMENT: WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT ACCEPT THE GOY PROPOSAL SINCE IT PROVIDES THE MECHANISM FOR BROAD HIGH-LEVEL BUSINESS CONTACTS WHICH CAN BE VERY HELPFUL IN PROMOTING US TRADE AND INVESTMENT. IF THE GOY PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTABLE, THE EMBASSY CAN PROCEED TO ASCERTAIN THE DEGREE OF INTEREST AMONG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YUGOSLAV FIRMS WITH LICENSING, JOINT VENTURES, CO-PRODUCTION, AND OTHER RELATIONS WITH AMERICAN FIRMS AS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL C.
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